

## Closed Syllables

A) Start by giving them a list of words:

cap   tin   rob   cub   trot   is   and  
can   red   it   mug   men   am

B) Tell them that these words are all closed syllables. Then ask them what these words have in common. At first, many students may not understand what you are looking for. If this is the case, ask the following questions:

- a. How many syllables are there in each word? (1)  
If students aren't sure, read the list of words and ask them how many claps/hums they would make for each word. (Remember, students were first introduced to the concept of syllables by using duck lips or clapping the number of syllables in their names.)
- b. Do these words end in a consonant or a vowel? (a consonant)
- c. Ask students how many vowels there are in each word. (1)
- d. Now, read the words in the list and ask if the vowels are long or short? (short)

C) The ask: Who can put all this information together to come up with a definition of a closed syllable? (Students should work toward the following definition):

*A vowel followed by a consonant and the vowel sound is short.*

The fact that the vowel sound in closed syllables is usually short, is the important piece of information that you are looking for.